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HIGH-SCHOOL FRATERNITIES

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The following statistical study of high-school fraternity students' marks compared with the standing of non-fraternity students has been made to determine whether such fraternity students rank higher or lower in their work, whether the difference is measurably great, and whether the attitude of fraternity students is helped or hindered by membership in such societies.

The standings of 70 known fraternity students in the Oklahoma City High School are compared with those of the same number of non-fraternity students selected as a random sampling in each case from the Junior-Senior and Sophomore classes and the clubs (four debating clubs and the German Society in this case). Comparison is also shown with the grades made by the high school as a whole, and the number of students of the above-mentioned groups under discipline as shown in the principal's "Discipline Book" is analyzed.

The marks in use in the Oklahoma City High School are 1, 2, 3, and 4, the first being the highest and the last representing a failure. It should be noted that any average of grades that approaches a 1 is a high grade.

Collecting, assembling, and averaging the standings for the various groups, I obtained the figures in Table I.

An examination of Table I shows that the fraternity students earned far fewer 1's per student than either of the other two groups. With this in mind we should expect fraternity students to receive more 2's, but here they are about on an average with the other divisions. When it comes to the poor grades fraternity students have a much larger number in each case. All of this can be seen much more clearly in the representations of the comparative grades given in Graphs I-V.

Counting the different students in each group by years, as different students, and taking 194 in each case, we have the following comparisons:

194 club students made a total of 785 1's and 73 4's.

194 Junior-Seniors made a total of 746 1's and 136 4's.

194 fraternity students made a total of 369 1's and 333 4's.

TABLE I
AVERAGE NUMBER OF DIFFERENT GRADES PER PUPIL

Group	Standing	First-Year Subjects	Second-Year Subjects	Third-Year Subjects	Fourth-Year Subjects
Fraternity.....	1's	3.31	1.53	1.21	1.09
	2's	3.01	2.30	1.48	2.68
	3's	2.83	2.40	1.75	0.91
	4's	2.71	1.68	1.75	0.89
	4's repeated	0.33	0.48	0.41	0.09
	(3's after a 4	0.66	0.35	0.38	0.05
Junior-Senior.....	1's	5.84	3.94	2.54	2.26
	2's	3.60	2.54	1.85	2.40
	3's	2.49	1.54	1.23	0.95
	4's	0.99	0.70	0.64	0.35
	4's repeated	0.06	0.03	0.16	0.07
	(3's after a 4	0.23	0.23	0.30	0.00
Club.....	1's	5.30	3.98	3.02	2.10
	2's	2.63	1.88	1.69	1.75
	3's	1.23	0.92	0.46	0.60
	4's	0.59	0.40	0.19	0.00
	4's repeated	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.07
	(3's after a 4	0.03	0.10	0.07	0.00

Put in another way the results are even more decisive, as shown in Graph VI.

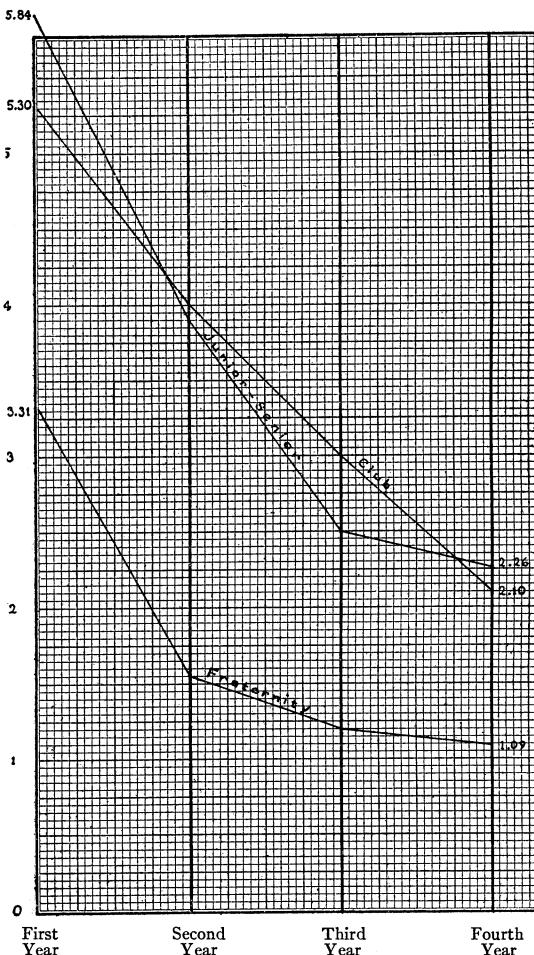
TABLE II

AVERAGE OF GRADES

Group	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year	General Average
Fraternity.....	2.37	2.53	2.62	2.28	2.45
Sophomore.....	2.15	2.27	2.21
Junior-Senior.....	1.67	1.88	2.00	1.88	1.86
Club.....	1.70	1.69	1.59	1.65	1.66

Calculating the averages of each group by years and the final general average I obtained the figures given in Table II.

It should be noted that the lower the number the higher the standing, and that the club students are highest generally, with

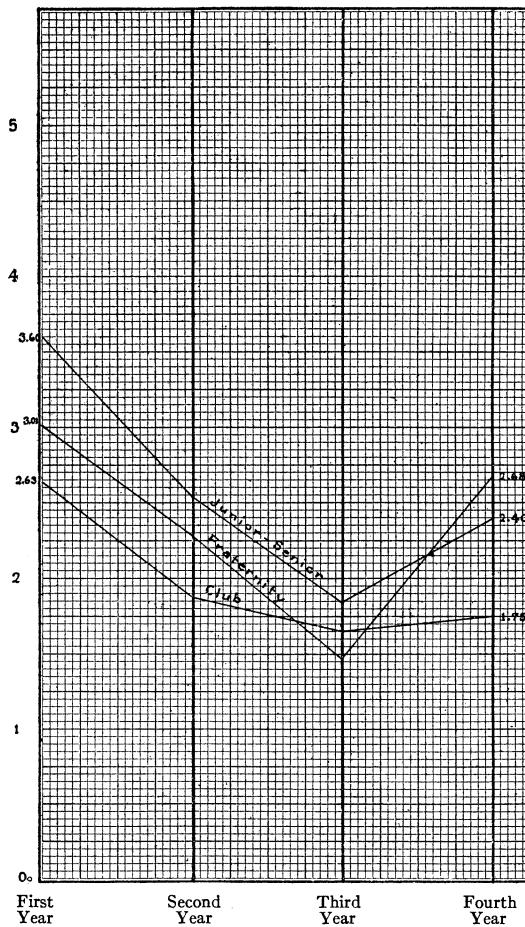


GRAPH I.—Average number of *r*'s made by groups through four years

the Junior-Senior group second, and even the Sophomores higher than the fraternity students.

From an estimation of all the grades of the Oklahoma City High School for the year 1912-13 the general average grade was

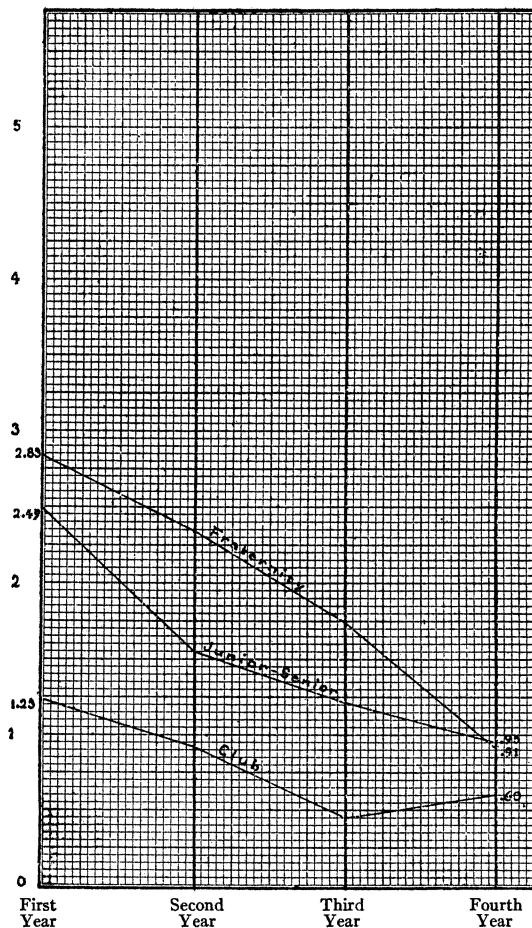
found to be 2.01. Comparing this average with the final averages of the above-mentioned groups, we obtain the results shown in Graph VII.



GRAPH II.—Average number of *z*'s made by groups through four years

It will be seen from the foregoing that in a final general average the Junior-Senior and club students average considerably higher than the school as a whole. On the other hand, the fraternity

students fall appreciably below the general standing of the school and far below the other groups.

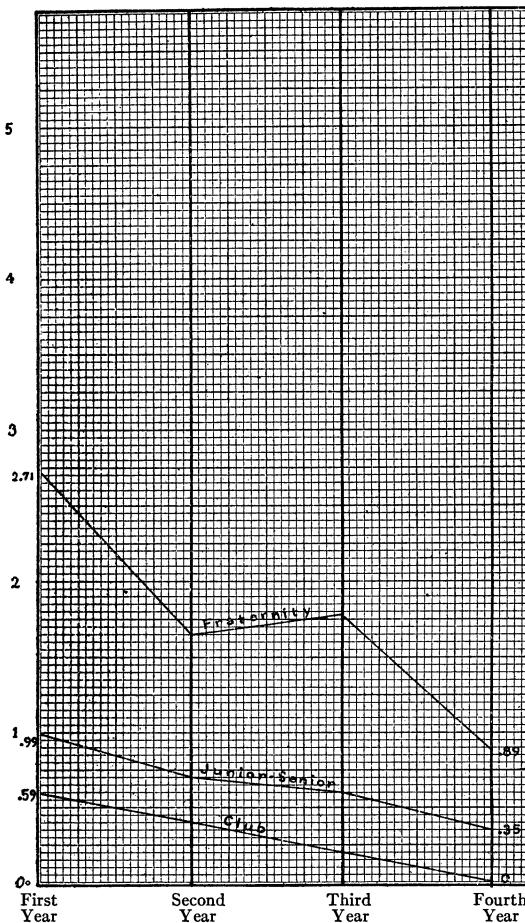


GRAPH III.—Average number of 3's made by groups through four years

Working out the medians, the highest 10 per cent, and the lowest 10 per cent, and finding the final averages of these by groups, I obtained the results shown in Table III.

The results shown in Table III are represented in another form in Graph VIII.

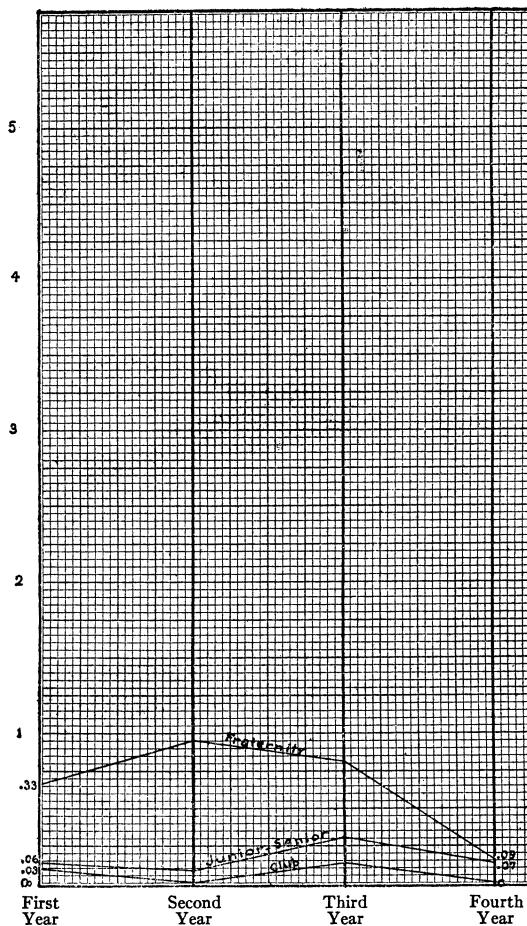
The medians, the highest 10 per cent, and the lowest 10 per cent, then, all reinforce what has been shown earlier by other com-



GRAPH IV.—Average number of 4's made by groups through four years

parisons, namely, that the fraternity students made poorer grades in every case, and taken from every angle their standing and scholarship are the lowest in the high school.

Turning now to the question of their attitude toward the high school as expressed in their behavior, I find that the "Discipline

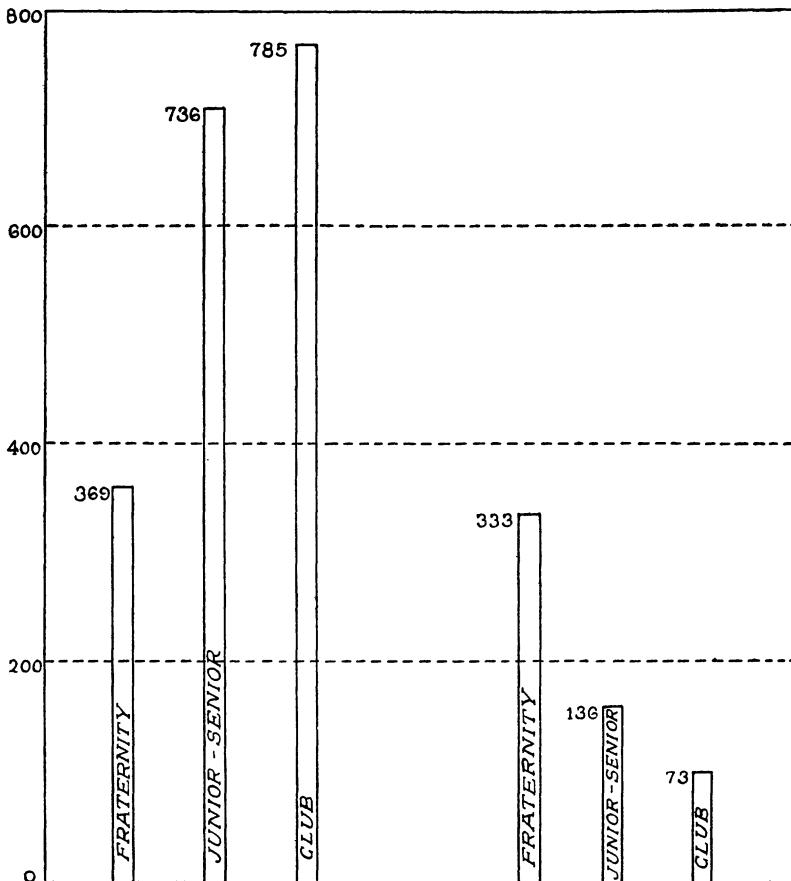


GRAPH V.—Average number of 4's repeated by groups through four years

TABLE III
 FINAL AVERAGES OF MEDIANES, HIGHEST 10 PER CENT,
 AND LOWEST 10 PER CENT

Group	Final Average of Medians	Final Average Highest 10 Per Cent	Final Average Lowest 10 Per Cent
Fraternity.....	2.47	1.42	3.81
Junior-Senior.....	1.90	1.01	3.26
Club.....	1.64	1.00	3.22

Book" makes an excellent contribution. This alphabetically arranged book contains a record of all students under discipline for the year 1912-13. An analysis of its contents shows the breaches in discipline made by each group. The general record



GRAPH VI.—Showing number of 1's (left) and number of 4's (right) made by three groups of 194 students each.

for the high school gives a total of 774 boys. This number less 70, the known fraternity boys, gives 704 as the total of non-fraternity boys. The count from the "Discipline Book" gives the following data:

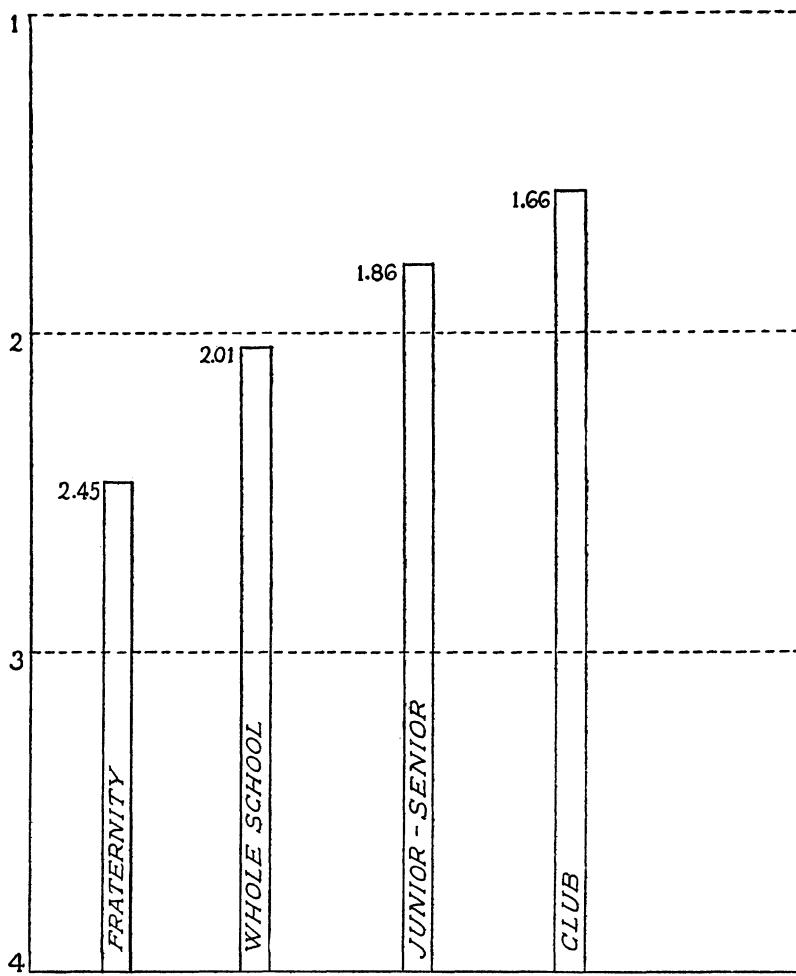
CASES UNDER DISCIPLINE COMPARED

Cases under discipline of non-fraternity boys, 126.

Cases under discipline of fraternity boys, 38.

Average number of cases for non-fraternity boys, 0.18.

Average number of cases for fraternity boys, 0.54.



GRAPH VII.—General average attained by each group

NUMBER OF BOYS UNDER DISCIPLINE COMPARED

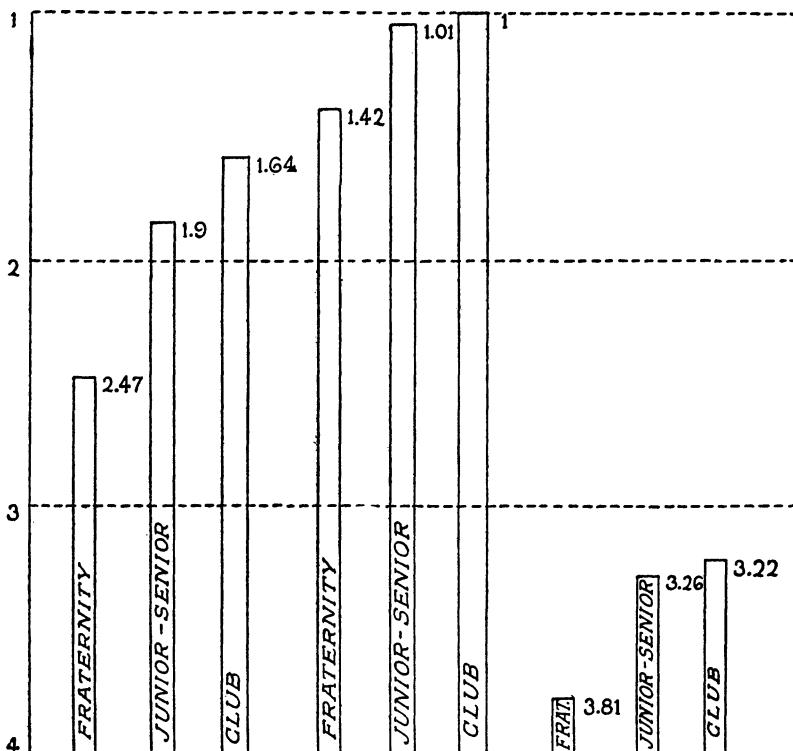
100 non-fraternity boys committed 126 acts calling for discipline.

21 fraternity boys committed 126 acts calling for discipline.

Average each for non-fraternity boys, 1.26.

Average each for fraternity boys, 1.86.

The above presented in graphic form appears in Graph IX.



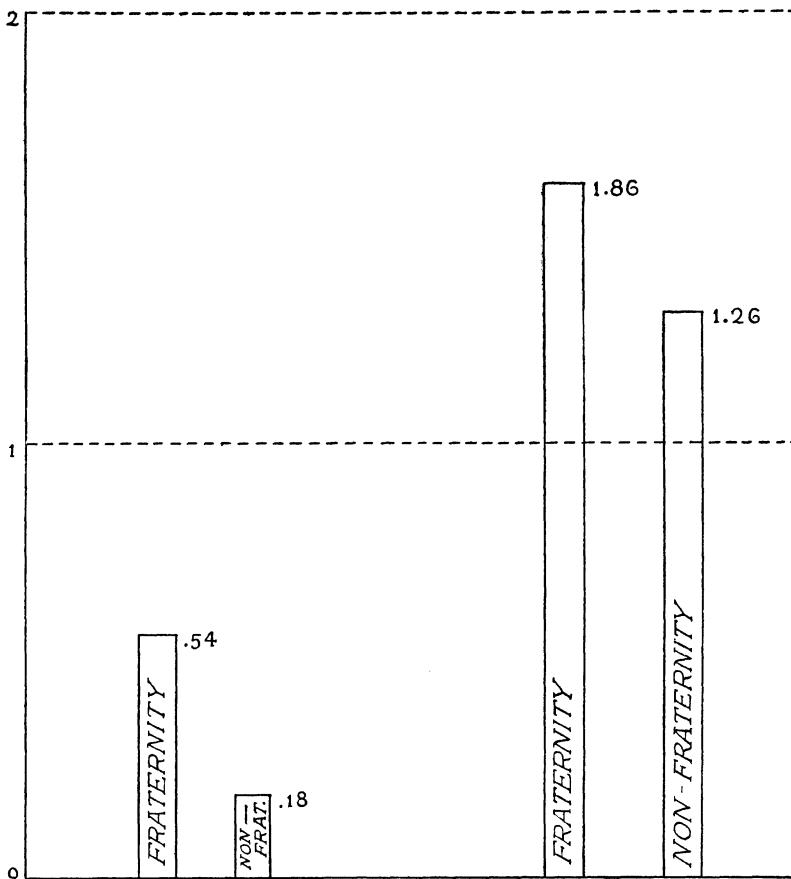
GRAPH VIII.—Averages of medians (left), highest 10 per cents (middle), and lowest 10 per cents (right).

CONCLUSIONS

The foregoing study shows conclusively:

1. That fraternities discourage scholarship and retard their members in their progress through the Oklahoma City High School.
2. The disparity in scholarship between fraternity and other groups in the same high school is so great as to be a cause of concern to parents and school authorities.
3. Literary and debating clubs encourage scholarship. They should be fostered and multiplied—always under the guidance of a faculty member.

4. Membership in fraternities increases the general problems of control and discipline. It is safe to say that the fraternities encourage wrong attitudes and a spirit of disregard for the established order.



GRAPH IX.—Averages of number of cases (left) and number of boys (right) under discipline.

5. The conclusions stated above give us a basis for asserting that such secret societies should be suppressed by the most active measures, and that the school should encourage all forms of literary, language, and debating clubs as far as possible.